

# DIME NOVEL ROUNDUP

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## THE DIME NOVEL ABROAD

By Henry Steele

The growing interest in the subject of the old Nickel and Dime novels, and the many inquiries that are being made for information regarding them and their kin, the weekly story papers of thirty to sixty years ago, prompt me to place the following notes before the readers of "The Novel Hunters' Year Book," etc., etc. They deal with re-prints of popular American stories which appeared in Irish journals within the period in question. "Young Ireland" was a popular little paper, which flourished for about forty years, (1875-1912) changing its title about midway in its career to "The Irish Emerald." Throughout its long run it specialized in the novels of May Agnes Fleming, scarcely a year passing without one or two of those thrilling romances appearing in its pages, generally under new and extra-sensational titles. Many stirring tales by other American writers also appeared in this journal, as well as some serials written especially for it, by Captain Mayne Reid, during the period 1875-1780. The following later appeared in "Young Ireland :—" The Czar's Spy, Through Fire and Water, Foiled by Himself, Rancho Laquana ; or, Fred Atin's Folly, Uncle George Under a Dark Cloud, Five Millions in Gold, Colonel Morebray's Daughter—all written by Major Alfred Richefoot ; also, The boy Gunner, by Roger Starbuck ; A Brother's Revenge, by Capt. Mayne Reid ; The Spy of the Brandywine, by Edward S. Ellis ; Firefly, by Major Lawrence ; The Haunted Island and The Big Elephant, both by Oscar A. Grosynne ; Still Unsubdued and Among the Arabs, by the author of Davy Darcy ; The Mystic Three showing what happened to three boys who believed all they read, by Percy Cutting ; Arthur Bolton's Adventures, by C. J. Armstrong ; Lost in the Snow, by J. O. Kaylor ; Forest Adventures, by Colonel Walter B. Dunlop ; Olive's Stratagem and The Mystery of No. 27, Carlotta Kingsley ; After All those Years, by Charles T. Wanners ; A Last Will and Testament, by Geo. E. Trymonds ; A Spoiled Life and The Princess Alexandra, both by Frances A. Durvage ; Ernest Darcourt's Inheritance and Lost and Found, both written by Frederick Whittaker ; Through Perilous Paths, by Robert

Brownson ; The Cruise of the Grampus, by Ned Buntline ; Geoffrey's Victory, by Mrs. Georgie Sheldon ; Out of the Toils, The Quaker Boy Spy, Hanged in the Wrong and a few others were published anonymously.

In the latter period of the journal there appeared tales by Léon Lewis, M. H. Veon, J. R. Musick and others, but they had not the grip of the earlier published stories.

Turning to "The Shamrock," another little journal of the same type and period as "Young Ireland, I find the following American stories, published in the volumes from 1878 to 1888 : Love's Revenge, The Wife's Secret, The Millionaire's Bride and Wilful Pansy, all written by Emma Gamson Jones ; Adelaide's Vow and A Fatal Ambition, both by Alice Dale. The Bride's Secret, by Ada M. Howard ; Fighting for a Name and Edith Bentley, both by Frederick Lee ; Minnie Warner, by Thomas Hastings ; Captain Heroine, the Wild Sea Rover, by Ned Buntline ; Raoul de Mont-ravers, by Frances A. Durvage ; Out of the Darkness, by Milton Nobles ; Silver Mask; or, The Wolves of the White Range, by W. B. Schwartz ; Old Cap Collier, Old Thunderbolt, My Greatest Case, The Newhaven Mystery, Old Sam Amongst the Bulls and Bears and other tales of similar class appeared in the later years of the journal, but I deal only with the period, which is in my opinion, the most interesting one.

A glance through the English story-papers of the same period, would show that an even greater proportion of their contents was of American origin.

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#### PARTIAL LIST OF 1931 MEMBERS OF H. H. B.

- No. 8. I. S. Seidman, 125 W. 45th St., New York, N. Y.
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16. John Ferguson, 262 Skillman St., Brooklyn, N. Y.
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Where authors come from—Fritjoff Michelson, co-author with Leon K. Byre, of that rowdy account of a voyage on a tramp steamer, "Ocean Parade" (McBride,) was born in Deadwood, S. D., which seems fitting enough, since that town was the home town of Deadwood Dick and Calamity Jane.

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Wanted—"83 Degrees North Latitude," in any number of "Pluck and Luck." Pub.



## A MATTER OF PRICE

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(Adapted from Ad Carter's comic strip, "Just Kids")

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Arranged by W. B. McCafferty

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SCENE: City street with two small boys, named respectively, "Mushmouth" and "Fatso Dolan."

TIME: In the sweet long ago—when "We Were a Couple o' Kids."  
Enter Mushmouth, who overtakes Fatso on the street.

Mushmouth: "Hey, Fatso! lookit wot I found up in our attic. (Holds up portrait for Fatso to see.)

Mushmouth: (As Fatso admires portrait) "How's that fer a swell pitcher of Buffaler Bill?"

Fatso: "Mushmouth, be more careful of yer langwidge! You mean Buffalo Bill. My, that's a swell pitcher arright. What'll yer take fer it?"

Mushmouth: "I won't take less'n thirt'n cents."

Fatso: "Well I won't give more'n TWENTY CENTS fer it."

Mushmouth: "I didn't say THIRTY CENTS. I said THIRTEEN CENTS."

Fatso: "Oh, then I won't give more'n TEN cents fer it."

Mushmouth: "'Member, Fatso, how we used to hide under the railroad, in the culvert, an' read 'Buffalo Bill and the Phantom Scout.' Boy! wasn't that great?"

Fatso: "Yep, it sure was fine. An' do you 'member 'Buffalo Bill and Prairie Pearl?' My, I b'lieve I'll take that pitcher at your price."

Mushmouth: "Nope, Fatso, I've decided not to sell it. I'm gonna put it with my pitcher of Pawnee Bill and Deadwood Dick. Goodbye Fatso. See you in the Comic Strip." (Exit Mushmouth.)

Fatso: (To himself) "M-m-m, now why didn't I take him up at ANY price, 'fore he had time to change his mind? Oh, well, such is life!"

CURTAIN.

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THIS AND THAT

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By W. B. McCAFFERTY

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In one of the famous "Believe It or Not" cartoons, of Robert Ripley, he has drawn a picture of Annie Oakley aiming a rifle, with the following words explaining the picture: "Annie Oakley broke 4,722 out of 5,000

glass balls thrown 45 feet in the air—in nine hours, loading the gun herself.” Mr. Ripley dates the event as occurring in February, 1885, in the State of Ohio. It will be remembered that Annie was associated with Buffalo Bill and Pawnee Bill in the wild west show business.

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## BIOGRAPHIES OF PIONEERS

By Arlie (Ark) Kinkade

No. 2 — Col. David Crockett

“A soldier and statesman,” such was Col. David Crockett. David was born in North Carolina, on Aug. 17, 1786, and died on that ever memorable day, March 6, 1836, when the Alamo was besieged and taken by the Mexicans. His people moved to Tennessee from North Carolina, and he had many skirmishes with Indians, and then he became interested in Government affairs and was elected a member of the State Legislature. Later, after he had served out his terms, he heard that the Mexicans were forcing their way into Texas, and gathering a company of men, with himself as leader, they went to the Alamo, which was Texas’ strongest point at that time.

On February 22, 1846, about 1,600 Mexicans assaulted the fortress, and the battle raged fiercely until daylight, when only six men, including Col. Crockett, were left alive. These six were taken prisoners.

When asked what to do with the prisoners, Santa Anna answered: “Have I not told you how to dispose of them?”

The murderous crew needed no other orders and fell upon the defenseless prisoners. Col. Crockett sprang like a tiger at Santa Anna, but a dozen swords were sheathed in his body. Without a groan, he fell dead.

And thus ends the biography of Davy Crockett.

Several issues of “Pluck and Luck” have Davy Crockett for a hero, and Augusta Evens wrote about the Alamo and Crockett in a book entitled “Inez.” If you wish to know where you can get the latter book, write to the author, and he will tell you where you can rent it for two weeks.

A biography of Lewis Wetzell will appear soon.

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There were 397 numbers of “The Boys’ Star Library” issued, the last number being dated Oct. 29, 1897.

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There were 801 numbers of “The New York Detective Library” issued and the last one was dated Mar. 23, 1898.



## A MERRY CHASE AFTER "MERRY."

By Frank T Fries.

Frank Merriwell, known to his friends as Merry, first made his bow in 1896, in "Tip Top Library." In 1897 it was Tip Top Weekly. In 1912 it was New Tip Top Weekly. In 1915 it was Tip Top Semi-monthly—and so on.

For more than 16 years, Gilbert Patten, (pen name Burt L. Standish,) produced a Merriwell story every week. His last story of this run was contained in No. 822 Tip Top Weekly. Then he quit and the publishers fixed up some old Frank Merriwells by changing the names of the characters, but they only continued this for a few numbers and then another author took up the series. Tip Top ended with No. 850, and New Tip Top with No. 136. A few Merriwells were run in the semi-monthly, then it was discontinued and the stories kept on in Wide Awake Magazine for a short time and then were discontinued.

In the meantime the old Tip Top Weekly was being re-printed in the 10c Medal Library. Soon it was changed to the New Medal Library, but the only thing "new" about it was the price, 15c. After running through the Tip Top and New Tip Top series, the New Medal was discontinued and the "Merriwell Series" ran through the same two Tip Top series. Now, they are starting all over again in the "Burt L. Standish Library."

Some of these old time Merriwell stories were published in cloth bound editions by various book companies.

In 1927 the writer of this article suggested to Street & Smith that they re-print the stories contained in the semi-monthly and Wide Awake Mag. in Sport Story Magazine. This, they refused to do, but promised to have a brand new set of Merriwells produced in this magazine. They published about a half dozen during that year and Merriwell was again put on the shelf, until a short time later four or five Frank Merriwell, Jr., stories were printed in Fame and Fortune Magazine.

In 1927 Gilbert Patten wrote a Merriwell story for "The Saturday Evening Post," entitled: "That Man Merriwell." He is now preparing: "The Rise and Fall of the Dime Novel," for publication in the Post.

In 1928 Ralph P. Smith wrote a Merriwell story which ran as a serial in Fries' Frank Reade Library.

And, lastly, in October, 1930, the originator of Merriwell was prevailed upon to write a new series of Frank Merriwell, Jr., stories for Top Notch Magazine. They described young Frank's experiences at Yale, and were the real old time Merriwell thrillers up to date. Now, they have disappeared and where "Merry" will next appear is a problem that defies solving, but we hope he hasn't gone to join the other old time novel heroes.

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**ITEMS OF INTEREST.**

The first library published by  
Frank Tousey was "The Five Cent  
Wide Awake Library."

There were 72 numbers of Snaps  
Weekly published.

There is a good article on collect-  
ing Vol. I, No. 1 of books and mag-  
azines in the Dec., 1930, issue of  
the Bookman Magazine, Pub. 19th  
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It has several old illustrations, and  
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